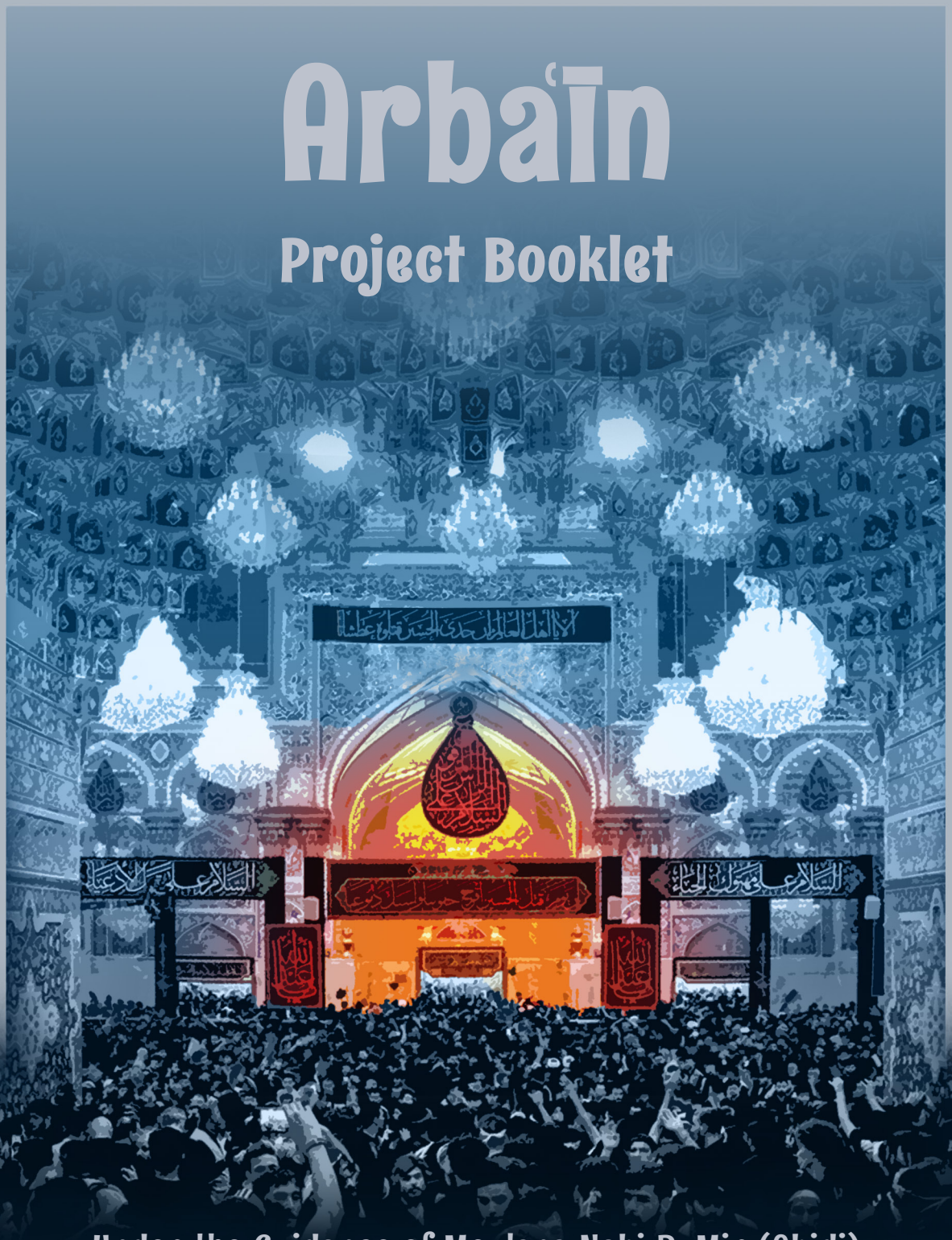
Book 4

Arbaʿīn

Project Booklet



Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for
the sponsors of this project booklet.

Important dates in Ṣafar

5th	Wafāt of Sayyidah Ruqayyah (Sakīnah) (by some traditions)
7th	Wilādah of Imām Mūsā al-Kāẓim (ʿa) Shahādah Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) (by some traditions)
17th	Shahādah of Imām ʿAlī ar-Riḍā (ʿa) (by some traditions)
20th	Arbaʿīn of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa)
24th	Wafāt of Sayyidah Zaynab (ʿa)
28th	Riḥlah of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ) Shahādah Imām Ḥasan (ʿa)
29th	Shahādah of Imām ʿAlī ar-Riḍā (ʿa)

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and go to **kisakids.org/donate** to help us continue our efforts.
Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of those
who contributed to this booklet.

INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION:

Mawkib craft: Etsy
freepik

cover image: IRNA Arbaeen night mourning in Karbala

بِسۡمِ اللّٰہِ الرَّحۡمٰنِ الرَّحِیۡمِ

Salāmun ʿalaykum,

May Allāh bless us, our families, and our communities.

Our sincerest condolences to the Imām of our time, Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj), our great Marājiʿ and scholars, the Muslim Ummah, and all the believers on the Arbaʿīn of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and the shuhadā of Karbalāʾ.

On the 20th of Ṣafar, the caravan of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) arrived in Karbalāʾ, returning from Damascus. On this day, Jābir ibn ʻAbdullāh al-Anṣāri performed the first visit, ziyārah, to the grave of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa). Therefore, it is recommended to visit the holy shrine of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) on this day. Imām Ḥasan al-ʿAskarī (ʿa) has said that there are five signs of a muʿmin (believer), one of which is reciting the ziyārah of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) on Arbaʿīn.[1]

In honor of Arbaʿīn, we are pleased to launch the annual Arbaʿīn Project Booklet. This booklet includes five lesson plans that have been put together in collaboration with scholars and educators. We pray these projects increase the love of the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) in our children and instill in them the desire to perform ziyārah of Abā ʿAbdillāh, inshāʾAllāh.

Alḥamdulillāh, this year's booklet has been the result of a wonderful collaboration. We would especially like to acknowledge the efforts and contributions of Zoha Institute toward this initiative. Our humble request is to create a two-way connection by all of us sharing our expertise and experiences and avoiding duplicated work, in order to maximize our potential. Please share your ideas, experiences, and successes with us, so that together, we can all move forward and build a global network, inshāʾAllāh

Please remember in your duʿās all of the muʿminīn who are embarking upon ziyārah this year and for the whole Muslim Ummah, and bring awareness to your children so they can prepare for the ẓuhūr of Imām al-Mahdī (ʿaj). Talk to them about everything that is happening in the world, especially to our Muslim brothers and sisters and the children who are being oppressed all around the world in Burma, Yemen, Syria, Kashmir, Palestine, Bahrain, Iraq, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, and everywhere else.

We pray that Allāh gives us the tawfīq to actualize our duties and responsibilities.

With duʿās
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)
Resident ʿĀlim of SABA Islamic Center

1 Ḥadīqat ash-Shīʿah, Vol. 2, P. 194

Arbaʿīn and Ziyārah

Objective: Children will learn about the Arbaʿīn of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa).

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Computer
- Projector
- Prezi (https://tinyurl.com/ArbaeenPrezi)

Procedure:

1. Project the following presentation from your computer: https://tinyurl.com/ArbaeenPrezi
2. Use the script below to narrate the different pictures

Image 2: (OCCASION OF ARBAʿĪN) Today we are here for the event of Arbaʿīn. It marks 40 days after the martyrdom of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and the events of Karbalāʾ. Arbaʿīn is one of many important dates that help us remember and show our love towards our Ahlul Bayt (ʿa).

Image 3: We should remember the events of Karbalāʾ and our Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) in our daily lives, but there are some specific days when we should remember them. Arbaʿīn is one of those days. In remembering the pain and oppression that Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and his family and followers had to face, we learn to be patient, strong, faithful, and brave. By loving the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) and following their examples with our actions, we can become stronger followers and grow closer to Allah (swt).

Images 4 & 5: (ZIYĀRAH ON ARBAʿĪN) One of the things our Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) have taught us is the importance of visiting their holy shrines. When we visit our Ahlul Bayt (ʿa), we can be near them and ask them for their help. On Arbaʿīn, the largest gathering of people in the world takes place in Karbalāʾ. This gathering is even larger than Hajj.

Image 6: In the days leading up to Arbaʿīn, people from all over the world go to visit Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and the other martyrs of Karbalāʾ. Many people will go to Najaf, the city where Imām ʿAlī (ʿa) is buried, and walk to Karbalāʾ from there. This walk in particular is almost 50 miles (80 km). By walking this long, difficult route, in the harsh desert environment, people can express their love and commitment to Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and the martyrs of Karbalāʾ.

Image 7: (THE MEANING OF ZIYĀRAH) The Arabic word “ziyārah” means “to visit”. The ziyārah of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and the other martyrs of Karbalāʾ is special because those who are martyred, or shahīd, are able to see and hear us and they are aware of our presence in Karbalāʾ.

Images 8, 9, 10, & 11: When we visit the shrines of our Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) and some of their special followers, we are really speaking to them directly. Of course, we can send them our salāms from anywhere in the world, but it is extra special when we are at their shrines. Our Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) especially can receive our requests for their help. They can speak on our behalf to Allah (swt). However, it is important to be good and true to the path in order for the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) to help us. We must work hard to do good deeds, observe our prayers, and be truthful. We must strive to be deserving of our Ahlul Bayt's help. By doing good deeds and praying, we are following the example of the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa). This, along with performing ziyārah, is how we show the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) that we love them.

Image 12: (THE VALUE OF ZIYĀRAH) When we go to ziyārah, we are able to connect with them more than if we only sent our salāms to them from our homes. Being physically near them gives us a better connection. Human beings are very material creatures. Sometimes we need to be reminded of what is important by seeing something or some place to remember what our values are and what we should be doing to be good Muslims. So, while we cannot see any of our Ahlul Bayt (ʿa), we can still be near them when visiting their shrines, inshāʾAllāh. This is why it is so important to go and experience these beautiful reminders up close. The Noble Prophet (ṣ) spoke highly of performing the ziyārah of our Ahlul Bayt (ʿa), and that there is much reward to be gained by this act.

Image 13: Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) has said, "When a person leaves his house to perform the ziyārah of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa), until he reaches his destination, he will be accompanied by 700 angels. After he finishes his ziyārah, Allah (swt) will forgive his past sins that he has regretted. Then, he must be careful to no longer commit sin. The angels will then accompany him until he reaches his home. After the angels bid their farewell to him, until the last day of his life, the angels will constantly perform the ziyārah of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) on his behalf."

Images 14 & 15: (ETIQUETTES OF ZIYĀRAH) Going for ziyārah requires us to follow a few rules of etiquette. The Prophet (ṣ) has taught us that whenever we go to visit someone we must be clean and presentable. This also applies to visiting the shrines of the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa). We should bathe (do ghusl), be well-dressed, and make wuḍūʾ. Before entering the shrine, we should take off our shoes. While in the shrine, we should be focused on our visit and try to feel connected to whoever we are visiting, whether it is Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) or any other Maʿṣūm. We should be respectful, face the gravesite, and give our salāms. Ziyārah also comes with a series of duʿās that we can read. There are books available to guide us on when and where to read the different duʿās. We should also send salāms to the Imām of our time (ʿaj) and let him know that we are visiting his family.

Image 16: (HONORING THE ZĀʾIR (PILGRIM) Returning home from ziyārah can be something of a celebration. We are encouraged to go visit anyone who has gone for ziyārah and congratulate them on their journey. We can then receive thawāb in visiting those who have visited our Ahlul Bayt (ʿa), inshāʾAllāh. Those who return from ziyārah often bring tabarruk for everyone back home. This can be a piece of cloth that touched the holy shrine, a turbah, or tasbīḥ, or even a ḥijāb, These gifts help us connect to the personalities and can motivate us to go on our own ziyārah trip, inshāʾAllāh.

Images 17 & 18: (ZIYĀRAH OF THE IMĀM OF OUR TIME) How can we visit the Imām of our time (ʿaj)? The 12th Imām (ʿaj) is in the hearts of the lovers of the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa). There is a ḥadīth from The Noble Prophet (ṣ) that if one wants to be with the Imām of their time, they should go and be with those who are the lovers and followers of the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa). We can visit our Imām (ʿaj) from wherever we are, if our intentions are good and pure. Our Imām (ʿaj) himself has taught us duʿās that can help us to call out to him, and he can help us in a way that is best for us, inshāʾAllāh. One way to perform this ziyārah is to offer a two rakaʿāt prayer. Then, while still facing qiblah, we can speak to our Imām (ʿaj) and ask him for his help, inshāʾAllāh.

Image 19: Now let's all, face the qiblah, and face our hearts towards Karbalāʾ and the shrine of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and send our salāms along with those who have gone to Karbalāʾ to perform ziyārah:

أَلسَّلاَمُ عَلَى الْحُسَيْنِ، وَعَلَى عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ، وَعَلَى أَوْلادِ الْحُسَيْنِ، وَعَلَى أَصْحابِ الْحُسَيْنِ.

"Peace be upon Ḥusayn, and on ʿAlī son of Ḥusayn, and on the children of Ḥusayn and on the companions of Ḥusayn."

May all of our ziyārah be accepted, inshāʾAllāh!

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Getting Ready for Ziyārah

Objective: Children will learn about preparing for ziyārah and the significant locations to visit in the city of Karbalāʾ.

In the previous lesson, we talked about the importance of ziyārah. When we go for ziyārah, we need to prepare for this special trip, both physically and spiritually. One of the things we have to do is pack anything we need for the physical trip, such as clothes, shoes, a toothbrush, travel documents, and more. However, for a spiritual trip like ziyārah, we need to take something else! We should prepare ourselves by having good akhlāq, a nīyyah to become better people, and taqwā, or always remembering Allah (swt). We should also fill our hearts with the love of the Ahlul Bayt (ʿa).

There are many different places we can visit related to the events of Karbalāʾ. Next to the shrine of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) is the shrine of his brother, ʿAbbās. In between is a long walkway called Baynul Ḥaramayn, which connects the two shrines. Another place to visit is the Khaymagah, which is where the tents of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and his family and companions were located. The next place is the hilltop known as Tal az-Zaynabiy, where Sayyidah Zaynab (ʿa) watched the battlefield. Running through the city is the river Furāt. Today, we will be making our own Karbalāʾ passport books with these special places, and inshāʾAllāh we can visit them soon!

Karbalāʾ Passport

Suggested Ages: 5+

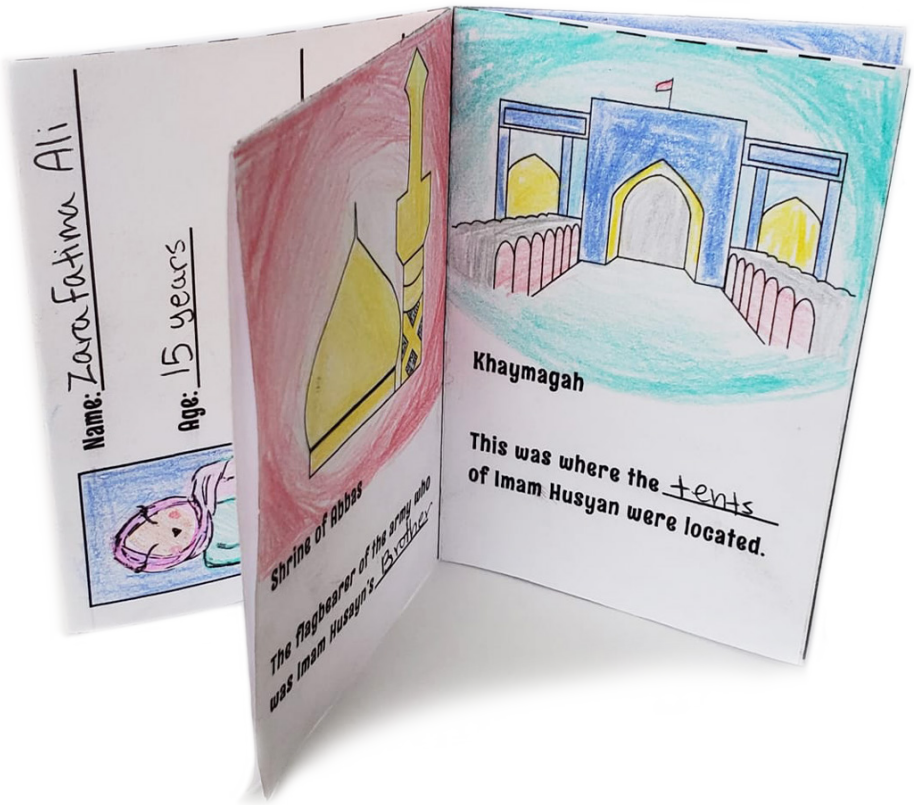
Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Passport template
- Pen/pencil
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Stapler

Procedure:

1. Color the pictures in the template however you like. Fill in the answers.
2. Cut out the template by cutting along the dotted outer edge.
3. Fold the template in half widthwise (the dotted line in the center should be perpendicular to the folded edge).
4. Then, with the paper still folded, cut along the dotted line.
5. Now unfold the paper and fold it lengthwise (the cut should be parallel to the fold).
6. Next, holding the ends of the folded paper, push towards the center so that the paper forms a plus sign.
7. Once the paper is in the shape of a plus sign, locate the front and back covers and fold them over like a passport.
8. Open the passport to the middle and lay it flat. Staple along the solid line to prevent the booklet from coming undone.
9. Press the fold firmly so that it lies as flat as possible, like a passport.


Name: Zara Fatima Ali
Age: 15 years
Shrine of Abbas
The flagbearer of the army who was Imam Husayn's brother
Khaymagah
This was where the tents of Imam Husyan were located.

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Karbala Passport

Name: _____

Age: _____

City: _____

Country: _____

The river running through _____ Karbala.

Tal az-Zaynabiy

Sayyidah Zaynab saw the _____ from this hilltop.

Khaymagah

This was where the _____ of Imam Husyan were located.

Shrine of Abbas

The flagbearer of the army who was Imam Husayn's _____

Shrine of Imam _____

He was martyred in Karbala along with his family and friends.

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Imām Ḥusayn's Shrine

Objective: Children will learn about the holy shrine of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa).

Arbaʿīn is the 40th day after the tragedy of Karbalāʾ. On this day, we mourn for Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and the martyrs of Karbalāʾ. During these days, we go to majālis where we remember their story and cry for them.

One thing many people do on Arbaʿīn is go to Karbalāʾ to visit the shrines of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and the shuhadā in Karbalāʾ. The Ahlul Bayt (ʿa) have told us that going to perform the ziyārah of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa), especially on the day of Arbaʿīn, is really good and that we get a lot of thawāb! InshāʾAllāh may we all have the tawfīq and opportunity to visit him. Let's talk a little bit about the shrine of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa).

Most of the Maʿṣūmīn have a shrine where they are buried. A shrine is a building or structure decorated with intricate designs and made from special materials. It usually has a round dome on top, and some have tall pillars on the sides of the dome, called minarets. On top of the dome of Imām Ḥusayn's shrine is a red flag. Did you know there are 3 people buried in the shrine of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa)? ʿAlī al-Akbar and ʿAlī al-Aṣghar, his sons who were also martyred in Karbalāʾ, are also buried with him. Today, we will make a model of the shrine of Imam Husayn (a) so that we can perform his ziyārah, even if we can't physically visit him.

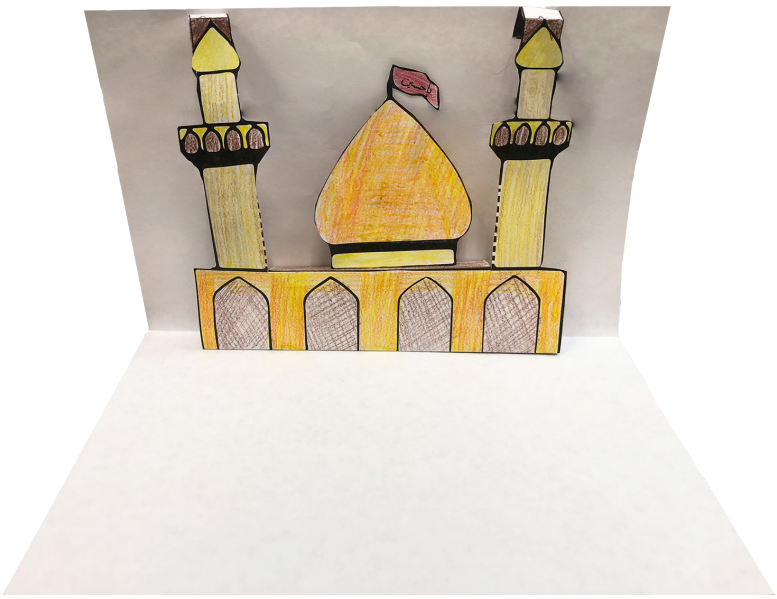
Pop-up Shrine Model

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Shrine template
- Plain paper (any color)
- Pen/pencil
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue/tape



Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the shrine template. You can look at some pictures of the shrine to see as a reference.
2. Cut out the pieces of the shrine and the dome all along the outer lines. Be sure to include all of the tabs.
3. Then, carefully cut the dotted lines that run parallel to the minarets. Be sure to only cut the dotted portions.
4. Then, take the dome and fold at the line labeled “A.” This will make a tab that should be folded behind the dome image.
5. Then, on the other piece of the shrine, fold all of the lines labeled “A.” There should be a total of five tabs, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. These tabs should be folded behind the shrine image.
6. Now attach the dome to the shrine by gluing the tab of the dome to Tab 1 of the shrine.
7. Take the plain paper and fold it in half widthwise.
8. Now, take Tab 5 of the shrine piece and glue it to the paper. Be sure to align it with the fold line of the paper.
9. Next glue Tab 2 to the paper. This will keep the shrine upright.
10. Now glue Tabs 3 and 4 above the minarets to the paper.
11. You can write “Peace be upon you, O Abā ʿAbdillāh” on the half of the paper that is laying out in front of the shrine.

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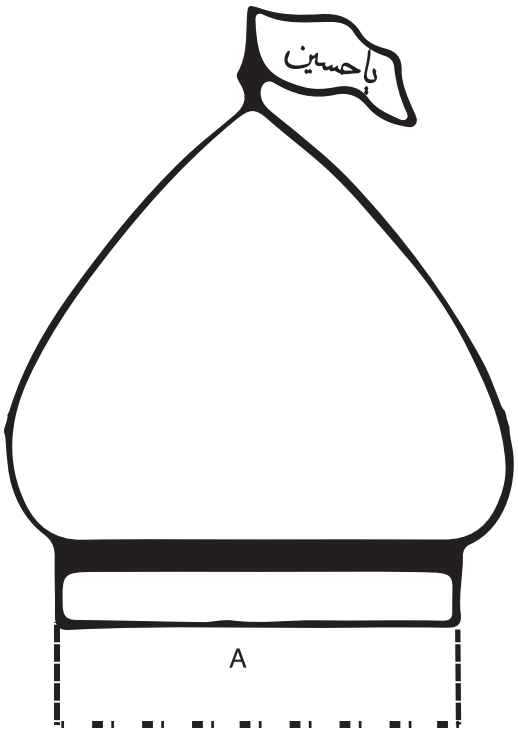
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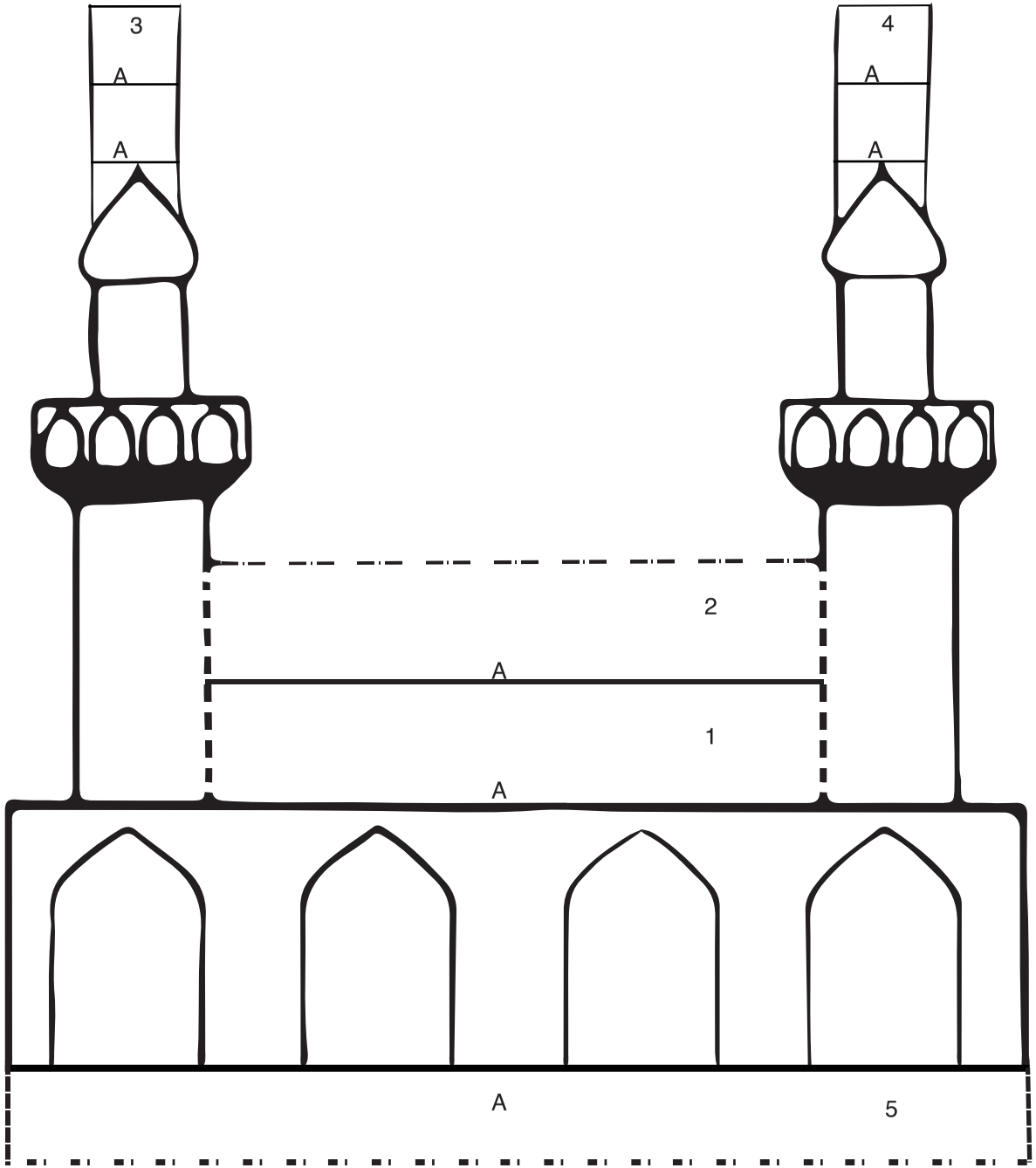
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Serving Others

Objective: Children will learn about serving others on the Arbaʿīn walk and in majālis.

On the 2nd of Muḥarram, when Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa) and his caravan reached Karbalāʾ, they met a small tribe living there. The Imām (ʿa) asked them to take care of the people who would come to visit his grave and the graves of the martyrs. He said that these visitors will be his guests, and to feed and look after them for three days. Those who have visited Karbalāʾ for ziyārah can describe the kind and caring hospitality they experienced there.

During the Arbaʿīn walk, millions of people walk to Karbalāʾ, and they all require food, water, places to rest and sleep, to get clean, to pray ṣalāh, and much more. All along the walk, there are several stations, called mawkibs, that serve the visitors. Some people set up a small stand, or even just hold a tray, handing out food items, water, tissues, tea, or anything else people might need as they are walking.

It is important to serve and care for those who visit Imām Ḥusayn and the martyrs of Karbalāʾ. We can apply this same kindness and attitude in our everyday lives, even if we're not in Karbalāʾ. There are etiquettes on how to serve those who attend the majlis of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa), whether it's at our homes or in the masjid. Today, we will make a craft that will show us some ways we can care for the visitors of Imām Ḥusayn (ʿa), both in Karbalāʾ and at home.

Mawkib Craft

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Mawkib template
- Plain paper (any color)
- Pen/pencil
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue/tape

Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the pieces of the template however you like.
2. For the center picture piece, you can either use the drawing provided or draw your own in the blank box.
3. Cut out all of the pieces by cutting along the dotted lines.
4. Now assemble the pieces together on the plain paper. First put the picture in the middle of the paper.
5. Put the trapezoid piece above the picture. This will be the canopy.
6. Then place the piece with the lines below the picture. This will be the base of the stand.
7. Once all of the pieces are assembled, glue them down to the paper.
8. Glue the circles on the bottom piece.
9. Finish decorating the craft however you like.

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Trees in Heaven

Objective: Children will learn the four praises of Allah (swt), as taught by Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ).

In the month of Ṣafar, we also commemorate the death anniversary of our beloved Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ). He brought us Islam and taught us many good things, such as praying ṣalāh, the Qurʾān, and having good akhlāq.

One very important thing the Noble Prophet (ṣ) taught us are ways of praising Allah (swt). He said, "Allah (swt) plants one tree in heaven for whoever says Subḥānallāh, one for whoever says Alḥamdulillāh, one for whoever says Lā ilāha illallāh, and another for whoever says Allāhu Akbar."

What do these phrases mean? Subḥānallāh means "All glory belongs to Allah." Glory is like greatness. Alḥamdulillāh means "All praise is for Allah." Lā ilāha illallāh means "There is no god except Allah." Allāhu Akbar "Allah is the Greatest." These four sentences are known as Tasbīḥāt al-Arbaʿah, or the Four Praises. It is good to say these phrases in our everyday lives. Today, we will make some heavenly trees to remind us of the importance of always saying these phrases and remembering Allah (swt) throughout our day!

Praises of Allah Tree

Suggested Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Trees template
- Pen/pencil
- Crayons/colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue

Procedure:

1. Color and decorate the four trees however you like.
2. Write one phrase of the Four Praises on each tree.
3. Fold each tree in half. There is a small line at the top and bottom of the tree indicating where the middle is. Fold along that line.
4. Then, cut out the trees. Be sure to include the small hill in the background.
5. Next, fold the trees again along the same fold, but this time the colored side should be folded inside. Fold all four trees.
6. Now take one tree and apply glue on one of the sides (it should be plain white with the colored side inside).
7. Then take a second folded tree and place it on top of the glued half of the first tree, aligning the shape of the trees. Press down for the glue to set.
8. Repeat this process for the third and fourth trees.
9. Now glue the other half of the first tree to the unglued half of the fourth tree.

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UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY